understanding which we cannot understand either the nature or the intensity of his mental conflict. As M. N. Searl pointed out, " The nursing mother is not absorbed in the care of her offspring, her interests are really divided, and the quite small baby knows that others, bigger perhaps, and certainly biggest, share her love, her attention, her body/'

This central situation in which, at the time when the child is utterly dependent upon his mother for all his satisfactions, he is nevertheless obliged to realise that she gives herself and her love to his father, is almost, if not quite unique, in the mammalian world. It arises from two characteristically human phenomena, *viz.: (a)* Loss of sexual periodicity, the sexual life of the parents being a continuous one, and the child thus never enjoying the *exclusive* love and care of the mother ; *(b)* The much greater helplessness and much greater length of dependence of the human child upon its parents.

These two phenomena together create the specifically human family relation. Human society rests upon the long plasticity of childhood, coupled with the permanent relation of the child's parents in the sexual and parental functions. The particular tensions of jealous rivalry, the love and longing and hatred, to which the human child is exposed from a very early age take their rise in this family situation. And from these influences and conflicts are ultimately derived all the varied characteristics of later social life.. From at any rate the end of the first year, if not before, the human infant has to deal with a vortex of' conflicting emotions and desires, loves and hates, towards his parents and brothers and sisters. The way in which he learns to deal with these is the ultimate foundation for his later character and settled social responses. The troubles and difficulties

of human life and human psychological development, as well as all the delights and values of permanent social relations, thus take their" origin in this central psychic situation.

Psycho-analytic studies of the early phantasies and sexual behaviour of young children, as seen both directly and indirectly, have, thus, compelled a conclusion which seems a very hard scientific doctrine to those who have not met the evidence at first-hand in the actual work of analysis, viz., that at a very early age, certainly by the end of the first year, children not only are jealous of the father's relation with the mother and the mother's with the father, but have some